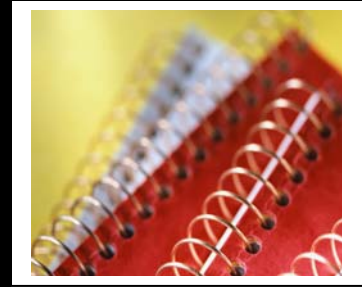


Comparing Results from Search Engines

A Research & Library Skills Exercise ♦ 2011-2012
www.lib.umd.edu/UES/engl101/exercises.html



Instructor's Name: _____ ENGL 101 Section: _____ Class Meeting Time: _____

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

What is a search engine?

Search engine is a term that refers to any type of application that helps you find information stored on a computer or information from another location. Google.com is a familiar example. The Libraries offer you a variety of specialized search engines that will make it easier for you to find credible and relevant books and articles for your papers. Using the Libraries' **Catalog** you can search for books, journal titles etc. Using the databases, linked through **Research Port**, you can search articles in one of the 300+ subscription databases listed.

The Exercise:

This exercise will guide you through comparing and contrasting the same topic across different search engines.


You will be comparing results from the Library's Catalog, Academic Search Premier (a database found in Research Port) and Google.com. **Use** your own research topic or the topic '**sports injuries**' across all search engines. Whichever one you choose, please use the exact same wording, capitalization, etc. each time you search in order to be able to accurately compare your results.

To get to Academic Search Premier follow this path:

- > Start at the Libraries' home page: www.lib.umd.edu
- > Click on Research Port
- > Click on "**See all categories**"
- > Click on **General/Multidisciplinary**
- > Next, click on **Academic Search Premier**

Answer the following questions on the table on page 2:

- Who is the author? What is his/her ethos (credibility)?
- Who is the intended audience of the information you found? General audience? Researchers? Students?
- What is the format of the information? Is it a web site? Article? Book? Something else?
- Are the results relevant? Have they assisted you in answering your questions on the topic?
- Within the context of performing academic research, what is the most helpful attribute of each search engine?

| SEARCH ENGINE  | LIBRARIES' CATALOG CATALOG.UMD.EDU | A RESEARCH PORT DATABASE: ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER RESEARCHPORT.UMD.EDU | GOOGLE (THE FREE WEB) GOOGLE.COM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Who is the author? What is his/her ethos (credibility)? | | | |
| Who is the intended audience of the information you found? A general audience? Researchers? Students? Explain why. | | | |
| What is the format of the information? Is it a web site? Article? Book? Something else? | | | |
| Are the results relevant? Have they assisted you in answering your questions on the topic? | | | |
| Within the context of performing academic research, what is the most helpful attribute of each search engine? | | | |